Proposal to impose restriction on export of cotton

617. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to impose restriction on the export of cotton to meet the demands of domestic textile industries as they are facing shortage as out of 325 lakh bales of cotton production in 2007-08, the quantity available for domestic textile sector was around 240 lakh bales only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated requirement of cotton in textile industry in the country at present;

(d) whether cotton is being imported every year in large quantities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) During cotton season 2007-08, Government proposed quantitative restriction on cotton export till 30th September, 2008, in view of reported sudden surge in the export of raw cotton, to ensure smooth availability for domestic textile industries to the required level.

(c) As per CAB, the estimated requirement of Cotton in Textile industry in the country at present is 241 lakh bales (of 170 kgs. each).

(d) and (e) The import of raw cotton is very meager, and limited to 5.5 lakh bales (of 170 kgs. each) which predominantly comprises Extra Long Staple.

Revival of NJMC Mills

618. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to revive National Jute Manufactures Corporation (NJMC) mills under public-private partnership model; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Government is considering a proposal to revive 3 mills of NJMC Ltd. under Public Private Partnership. Details are yet to be finalized. Proposal for revival of NJMC is under consideration of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.

Weavers committing suicide in Andhra Pradesh

†619. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the reports of suicides being committed by the weavers in Andhra Pradesh due to starvation and indebtedness have been received;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) whether Government has proposed to take up additional measures to provide financial assistance to the weavers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and b) No such reports have been received from the State Government. As per the information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh during the period from 1.4.1997 to 9.10.2008, 538 suicidal deaths are reported in the State, out of which 312 suicidal deaths relate to powerloom sector, and the remaining 226 suicidal deaths relate to handloom sector. Weavers committed suicide due to prolonged addiction to alcohol, inadequate wages, indebtedness and resultant harassment by the micro finance companies and due to ill health and other domestic problems.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioning *ex-gratia* amount of Rs.1.50 lakhs to the families of deceased weavers who committed suicides due to poverty arising on account of occupational related distress and financial hardship, faced by weavers in weaving profession. The State Government has also envisaged to implement a number of developmental and welfare scheme to ameliorate the conditions of weavers in the state. The Schemes include Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, Handloom Cluster Development Programme, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, Integrated Handlooms Training Project, Reimbursement of 10% One-time Rebate Scheme, Handloom Exhibitions, Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, Health Insurance Scheme, Thrift Fund-cum-Savings & Security Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Old Age Pensions, Netha Bazaars, 10% Yarn Subsidy, Pavalavaddin Scheme/ Interest Subsidy, 50% Power Subsidy, Training Subsidy,' Indiramma Houses, Conduct of District Level Events/ Exhibitions etc.

This Ministry his constituted a high level committee headed by MD-NABARD to look into the problems of high cost of working capital and choking of credit lines in the handloom sector. The Financial package for Handloom Sector worth Rs.2600 crore has been sent to Ministry of Finance for their approval. This financial package to handloom sector shall provide:

(i) Financing the credit needs of handloom weavers/societies at 7% rate of interest with interest subvention to NABARD and banks from Government of India.

(ii) Waiver of overdue loans and interest in respect of Weavers/PWCs/Apex Societies.

Government of India is also implementing number of schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skill and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. During the 11th Five Year Plan, the following schemes have been formulated for upliftment of handloom sector:-

a. Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme

b. Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

c. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

d. Mill Gate Price Scheme

e. Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.